querries in and around the town within a radius of ten miles; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to set up such a project in Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The black grainte polishing industry is a non-scheduled industry and does not require any licensing. Entrepreneurs are free to set up units based on the availability of black granite in Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu.

Kootterippattn as industrially backward area in Tamil Nadu

2152. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kootterippattn in Tindivanam Taluk, Tamil Nadu, has been declared as industrially backward area; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to promote industries there to raise the economic condition of the people of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The entire district of South Arcot including the Taluk of Tindivanam has been declared industrially backward by the Central Government. Industrialisation of any particular area/district is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplement their efforts to the extent possible.

Drop in demand for commercial vehicles

2153. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that demand for commercial vehicles, LCV and passenger cars has dropped by about 25 per cent during the last two months;

(b) whether this is likely to cause recessions in the automobile industry; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) The sale figures of Commercial Vehicles and passenger cars (given below) during Sept.-Oct., 1991 have actually been higher as compared to those of the corresponding period of 1990.

	Sept-Oct. 90	Sept.-Oct. 1991
Commercial Vehicles	20,177	22,019
Passengers Cars	19,768	25,362

(b) and (c) While the sales of Commercial vehicles and passenger cars have been fluctuating in different months of the year, the analysis of sale figures of last two months when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year does not indicate a recessionary trend.

Losses suffered by H.E.Cs.

2154. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loss suffered by two Heavy Engineering Corporations during the last two years and so far during the current year;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to curtail these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The amount of loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi during the last two years and during the current year so far have been as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	(—) 33.62
1990-91	(—) 99.51
1991-92 (Prov.) (April, 91 Nov., 91)	(—) 77.49

(b) The Corporation has been incurring losses mainly due to inadequate and imbalanced order book, excess manpower, high overheads, serious liquidity problem, shortage of power, poor work culture, old machinery and heavy outstanding from the customers etc. The order book position has, however, improved recently.

(c) Government have taken various steps to curtail losses in HEC which include providing plan and non-plan funds and guarantee for increase in cash credit limit with the banks to obviate the present liquidity crunch and providing funds for implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to rationalise the excess manpower.

Complaints against "Trade Marks" Registry, Okhla, New Delhi

2155. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently received any complaints against some senior examiners of Trade Marks Registry, Okhla, New Delhi regarding malpractices, in the allotment of Trade Marks etc; and

(b) if so, the details of the complaints and the action taken, if any, thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) A complaint was received against the Senior Examiner of Trade Marks of the Trade Marks Registry, New Delhi in connection with the allotment of a trade mark "Bhatakchhap". The allegations, on examination, were not established.

Directorate General of Technical Development

2156. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the work-load of the staff and officers in his Ministry particualrly in the Directorate General of Technical Development, in view of the announcement of the New Liberalised Industrial Policy;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) how Government propose to utilise the staff and the Officers rendered surplus or whose work-load has been considerably reduced; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of appointing a task force to examine this issue threadbare in order to achieve the objective of maximising economic benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d) The Government's recent economic initiatives in the form of major industrial, fiscal and trade liberalisations have led to revised perceptions about the role, functions and organisational structure of several Ministries/Departments/Oranisations. Consequently, it may be necessary to restructure several of these, including the Directorate General of Technical Development. Government have not taken any final decision in this regard. However, in respect of Department of Industrial Development (proper), a preliminary assessment of work local has been carried out. As a result of this exercise, the work in the Department has been reorganised. This reorganisation has inter-alia resulted in a fair number of posts becoming surplus. The adjustment of surplus is by redeployment, non-filling up of vacancies and by adjustment against existing vacancies within the revised strength.

Use of blue asbestos in small scale sector in India

2157. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cancer causing blue asbestos, banned in most parts of the world, is still being used unchecked in some small scale sectors in India, according to report presented at a Texicology Congress held in New Delhi on the 27th November, 1991;

(b) if so, the reasons for not banning its use; and